



National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet

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Summary

The National Guard is an increasingly vital component in the defense and security of the United States. Its federal role has grown with its major roles in U.S. and coalition country defense operations worldwide over the past several years. The Guard has been deployed in significant numbers in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as a full-scale partner in the armed services Total Force policy. Meanwhile, in May 2006, over 6,000 National Guard personnel were authorized to be sent to the southern border region of the United States to temporarily assist in interdicting illegal aliens. As of January 5, 2007, at least 5,670 National Guard forces were deployed for this border security operation (Operation Jump Start). This report briefly presents statistical information on the National Guard's role in defense and security, including its deployments in support of GWOT, OIF, and Operation Jump Start.

Introduction

The National Guard has undertaken an increasingly significant role in the defense and security of the United States. Traditionally, the Guard has been both a domestic security force and a major component of U.S. combat power for overseas operations. It has become an integral force in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Most recently the National Guard has been deployed under Operation Jump Start (OJS) on the southern border region of the United States to assist in interdicting illegal aliens crossing the border into the country.

Selected statistics on the force levels of the National Guard within the mix of U.S. military forces deployed in major ongoing operational missions are presented below. Information was developed and provided from official sources within the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau.

Report Documentation Page			<i>Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188</i>	
<p>Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.</p>				
1. REPORT DATE 10 JAN 2007	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2007 to 00-00-2007		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress,101 Independence Avenue, SE,Washington,DC,20540-7500			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
14. ABSTRACT				
15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 5
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON	

Selected U.S. National Guard Statistics

Table 1. National Guard Strength
(as of 12/31/06)

Army National Guard (approximate)	347,100
Air National Guard (approximate)	106,000
Total Strength (approximate)	453,100

Source: National Guard Bureau, January 10, 2007.

Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments
(as of 1/1/07)

In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	14,618
Army National Guard	13,508
Air National Guard	1,110
In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	4,932
Army National Guard	4,569
Air National Guard	363
In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 1/5/07	5,670
Army National Guard	4,536
Air National Guard	1,134

Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; January 2, 2007; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, January 10, 2007.

**Total National Guard Personnel Ever Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan
in Support of OIF and OEF,
September 2001 - November 30, 2006**

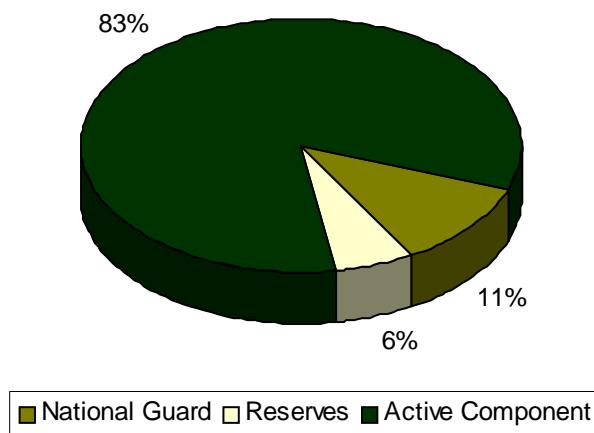
230,778

Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who are currently deployed as of January 1, 2007, are shown in **Figure 1** below.

Figure 1. Composition of U.S. Forces in Iraq by Component



Source: Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq

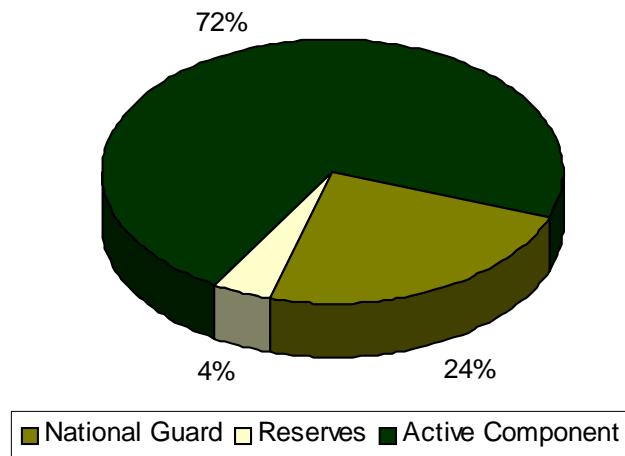
Reserve Component	22,273
National Guard	14,618
Army National Guard	13,508
Air National Guard	1,110
Reserves	7,655
Army Reserve	5,600
Air Force Reserve	412
Navy Reserve	639
Marine Reserve	1,004
Active Component	106,296
Army	72,598
Air Force	8,591
Navy	3,553
Marines	21,554

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of January 1, 2007, are shown in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2. Composition of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan by Component



Source: Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan

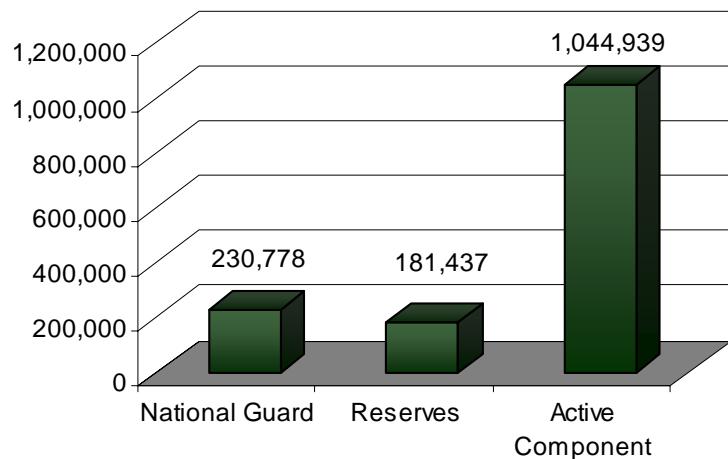
Reserve Component	5,697
National Guard	4,932
Army National Guard	4,569
Air National Guard	363
Reserves	765
Army Reserve	622
Air Force Reserve	122
Navy Reserve	19
Marine Reserve	2
Active Component	15,250
Army	10,841
Air Force	3,240
Navy	926
Marines	243

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Total U.S. Forces Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, September 2001 - November 30, 2006

Between September 2001 and November 30, 2006, a total of 230,778 National Guard, 181,437 Reserves, and 1,044,939 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

Figure 3. Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan



Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.